

REPORT TO THE  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAI'I  
2008

PURSUANT TO SECTION 53 OF ACT 213, SESSION LAWS  
OF HAWAII 2007 ENTITLED, "A BILL FOR AN ACT  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET" REQUIRING THE  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO  
SUBMIT AN EXPENDITURE AND PROGRESS REPORT OF  
ITS ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE SELF-  
ADVOCACY NETWORK.

PREPARED BY:  
STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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## I. INTRODUCTION

Self-advocacy is a growing movement across the United States. Significant systems change initiatives have been implemented to promote self-determination and self-directed services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). Individuals with DD are emerging leaders in their communities and are active partners in the planning, development, and implementation of policies and programs that shape and design services and supports, thus enabling them to live in the community.

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature in its Regular Session of 2007 introduced legislation to appropriate funds for a coordinator and operating expenses to support a statewide self-advocacy network of individuals with DD to provide education and training, opportunities to develop leadership skills, and to network with other self-advocacy organizations across the country. As noted in the Senate Ways and Means Standing Committee Report No. 595, "Hawaii is at the forefront in acknowledging that individuals with DD are capable of determining their personal goals and directing resources needed to accomplish those goals."

The Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 500 House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, Conference Draft 1, entitled, "A Bill For An Act Relating The State Budget." The Legislature, in its Conference Committee Report (No. 93) indicated that "a total of \$115,525 in general funds over the biennium was also added to the Developmental Disabilities Council to establish and support a statewide self-advocacy network for persons with developmental disabilities." Governor Lingle signed the bill as Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007.

## II. SECTION 53 OF ACT 213/2007

Included in Act 213 is Section 53, a proviso that requires the DD Council to submit a report to the 2008 and 2009 Regular Sessions of the Legislature. The purpose of Section 53 of Act 213 is to require the DD Council to submit an expenditure and progress report on its activities. Section 53 states that, "Provided that of the general fund appropriation for Developmental Disabilities Council (HTH 905), the sum of \$44,618 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the sum of \$70,637 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 shall be expended for a coordinator position and operating funds to support a statewide self-advocacy network for individuals with developmental disabilities; provided further that the program shall prepare a detailed expenditure report including but not limited to a progress report on its activities including performance outcomes; and provided further that the program shall submit the report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 and 2009 regular sessions."

A. Coordinator Position

The Legislature specified that for FY 2007-2008, \$20,018 was earmarked for the temporary Planner IV position and \$40,037 was designated for operating funds to support the statewide self-advocacy network. For FY 2008-2009, \$24,000 is for the Planner IV position and \$30,600 for operating costs.

In September 2007, the Executive Administrator for the DD Council submitted the Position Description for the Planner IV position. The approval to establish and fill the position is pending with the Department of Health Human Resources Office. Upon approval, the position will be announced and the recruitment process will begin. If approval is not received by January 31, 2008, a request will be submitted to fill the position on an emergency hire basis.

B. Expenditure Report

To date, no funds have been expended for the coordinator position or for operating costs. Once the Coordinator position is filled, funds designated for the position will be expended accordingly. Funds have not been expended for operating costs because there have been no expenses associated with the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council's (SAAC) activities. The SAAC has not required any funds during this time period to conduct its meetings.

Since Act 213 was signed into law, the SAAC has had several meetings (August 27, September 24, and October 22) to discuss its activities and determine its direction. The SAAC is undergoing a transition of leadership as a result of an upcoming meeting to elect new officers. Once the new officers assume their positions, a meeting will be held to discuss the development of a plan to provide direction and outline specific activities to establish the statewide self-advocacy network. Future activities requiring funds will be for travel to the neighbor islands to provide education and public awareness about the self-advocacy network and to recruit self-advocates.

The DD Division has been providing minimal staff support to the existing group of self-advocates by assisting in coordinating the meetings and providing the meeting room.

C. Activities and Performance Outcomes

Over the past year, a small group of individuals with DD have been meeting to begin organizing the self-advocacy network. Initial meetings have been to recruit membership, identify officers, discuss a vision, and establish by-laws of the network. During the last four months, activities have been focused on:

1) Electing new officers; 2) learning the process of incorporating the SAAC into a private non-profit [501(3)c] entity, 3) understanding the role and responsibilities of the coordinator position, and 4) identifying specific activities such as travel to the neighbor islands to conduct education, outreach and training, producing flyers and a video about self-advocacy, and participation at the upcoming Pac Rim Conference in April 2008.